

BROADWAY SCOOPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of Broadway Scoops in Pennsville, South Jersey. At the opening, I met Gary and Sabrina Green who opened Broadway Scoops' doors after finding inspiration through their love for ice cream. The entire shop was constructed by local small businesses and the supplies were sourced from local small businesses as well. Gary and Sabrina wanted to create a place where their local community could come in with their families and have a space to try ice cream and relax outdoors. There are picnic tables, checkers, corn hole, and various other games that patrons can come and enjoy free of charge. Gary and Sabrina told me how the support from their local community has been overwhelming and friends and family have traveled across the country to support their business. It is amazing to see South Jersey small business prosper, and I wish Gary and Sabrina the best of luck in their new venture. God Bless Gary and Sabrina and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call vote No. 180 on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021, RC No. 180.

The Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act would overturn a 2009 Supreme Court ruling on the basis that the decision negatively impacted age discrimination cases; however, there is no data to support that claim. In fact, this legislation would eliminate the carefully balanced standard Congress adopted when it passed the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and result in frivolous litigation against small businesses.

Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: represent Hoosiers of the 6th District.

GO FOR BROKE STAMP

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to recognize and honor . . . a stamp.

A stamp just issued by the U.S. Postal Service that, with stunning simplicity, remembers, recognizes and honors one of the most remarkable and inspirational stories in the whole of our country's history.

A story of tragedy, perseverance and triumph that is so quintessentially American, that

goes so deeply to our essence, that offers the most fundamental lessons that we must never forget.

And that is the point of this stamp: that we never forget the story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War Two and their famous motto which is its own lesson: Go For Broke.

For many of us, the story is well known and has instructed and inspired our own lives. But for a growing number of our fellow citizens of our country and world it is not, and so permit me a brief retelling.

The story originates in Japan in the late 1800s when largely rural poverty and lack of opportunity drove emigration to the United States, mainly Hawaii and the West Coast, until the Exclusion Act of 1924 ended any substantial further immigration. This first generation, or Issei, were excluded by reason of their race and origin from citizenship, yet they worked and sacrificed and persevered to provide a better life for their children, the second generation, or Nisei, born American citizens.

As World War Two loomed, Americans of Japanese Ancestry were beginning their third generation, or Sansei, in substantial communities, yet they remained largely marginalized because of race. In my Hawaii, they constituted over one third of our population, yet largely still labored on plantations or worked in small businesses. The same was true on the West Coast, from Washington through Oregon to San Diego. Some Nisei saw war with Japan coming and sought to enlist in our armed services, but they were largely denied out of race and suspicion and sought to prove themselves through service in the guard or, in Hawaii, the Varsity Victory Volunteers.

Pearl Harbor changed everything. Infamously, over one hundred thousand Japanese were interned for their race, an indelible stain on our national fabric. And after years of Japanese Americans pushing to be allowed to prove their loyalty by enlisting and fighting, the military finally relented with the 100th Infantry Battalion (the One-Puka-Puka), the 442nd regimental Combat Team ("Go For Broke"), the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The rest, as they say, is legend. The 100th and 442nd, after enduring great discrimination and great kindness in mainland training camps where Jim Crow was still very much alive, and even as their parents and brothers and sisters were incarcerated by their government, shipped out and fought their way with the U.S. Army from Africa up through Sicily and Italy and the Rhone and into France and the famous Battles of the Vosges and the Bulge and then into Germany itself where they liberated the concentration camps of the Third Reich. When it was all over, they had lost so many comrades and had become the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in our nation's history.

But it was not just for their wartime service that they are remembered, but their faith in and dedication to their country upon their return, itself marked even after all that by racism and discrimination. Many of them went on to careers in public service, like U.S. Senator and Medal Of Honor winner Daniel Inouye and U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga, and many more in other professions and careers and back in their communities where they quietly fought for the principle that the American dream belonged to all Americans.

What an American story, and for all this we honored them in 2010 with our Congressional Gold Medal. But was that enough; would it all be remembered?

Three Japanese American women in California who themselves had been incarcerated—Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira and Aiko King—thought not, and in 2005 they launched Stamp Our Story to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp in honor and remembrance of the Japanese American soldiers of World War Two. Sixteen long years later, through continued advocacy led in Congress by my Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and my colleagues here now and before—especially U.S. Congressman Mark Takai, himself a Japanese American veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, tragically lost to us—this beautiful and moving stamp, impeccably designed by Antonio Alcalá, was issued just weeks ago.

The design is taken from a 1944 photograph in the field of 442nd Private First Class Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto, a Nisei born and raised in the plantation village of Ninole on the Hamakua Coast of my home island of Hawaii. His service included the famous rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion in the Vosges, when the 442nd's casualties far exceeded the number of their mostly white comrades rescued. Legend has it that the motto "Go For Broke"—or in our pidgin go fo broke—originated in Hawaii gambling slang for going big against all odds. The soldier's face speaks of fatigue, of questions, but above all of Gaman, of perseverance through great adversity to a better place. Such a fitting tribute, so appropriate. And made possible by so many, including colleagues who are here with me today to contribute their own thoughts.

Madam Speaker, we are all grateful for the opportunity to remember and retell the American story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II and to celebrate the lessons of their service and lives through their stamp.

To close, I'd like to recite the 442nd's special song:

Four Forty Second Infantry
We are the boys of Hawai'i nei
We will fight for you
And the red, white and blue
And will go to the front
And back to Honolulu-lu-lu
Fighting for dear old Uncle Sam
Go for broke we don't give a damn!
We will round up the huns
At the point of a gun
And the victory will be ours!
Go for broke! Four Four Two!
Go for broke! Four Four Two!
And victory will be ours.
Mahalo.

COMMENDING FOURTH DISTRICT
STUDENTS ON 2021 UNITED
STATES SERVICE ACADEMY
NOMINATIONS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two exceptional students of Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District. These two young men recently accepted appointments into United States Service Academies,